

and to the constituents of Rhode Island's first district. A tireless worker, Mrs. Hinckley has long been a powerful advocate for those in need. Her love of country, compassion, and loyalty are a shining example to all future public servants. As Mrs. Hinckley prepares to transition to the next phase of her incredible career, we remember her dedicated service to the U.S. House of Representatives and offer gratitude on behalf of the thousands of Rhode Islander's whose lives she touched.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4853, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 for one simple reason. It includes an extension of federally-subsidized unemployment compensation benefits for thirteen additional months. The importance of extending unemployment benefits for my constituents back home cannot be overstated: these benefits are a critical lifeline for many in my district, as they are for millions of other Americans and their families. In October, the latest month for which data is available, there were 588,000 individuals in the State of Ohio who relied on this benefit to keep their heads and their families' heads above water. The Department of Labor reports that nearly 8.3 million Americans were receiving unemployment compensation as of early November.

Extending federal support for unemployment benefits is the least that we can do on behalf of the estimated 1.2 million people nationwide whose unemployment insurance either recently expired or will expire as they reach the last weeks of their available benefits. Cutting off unemployment benefits only adds to the shame and humiliation that people feel upon losing gainful employment through no fault of their own. For the residents of Ohio, this cutoff has been especially painful as the unemployment rate in Ohio is currently 9.9 percent. Through 2009, of those who were unemployed in my state, nearly a third had been unemployed for 26 weeks or longer. This is the highest rate of long-term unemployment seen in over 15 years. Ohio's economy was already struggling long before the current recession hit. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Ohio lost approximately 430,000 manufacturing jobs from 1990 through July of 2010.

These staggering job losses have a spillover effect, touching every county and city in Ohio, as foreclosure rates have risen to a devastating level. Each year since 1995, the rate of new foreclosure filings in Ohio has grown, and from 1995 to 2009, the rate quadrupled. In 2009, there were a record 89,053 fore-

closure filings—that is one foreclosure filing for every 56 housing units in the State of Ohio. In the City of Cleveland alone, there have been more than 38,000 new foreclosure filings since 2005. Because this crisis spread steadily to more middle-class and high-income suburban areas, non-urban areas now have the highest foreclosure rates in the state.

The ripple effects continue. Ohioans are forced to live with others due to foreclosure. They face communities marked with vacant and abandoned properties. The State of Ohio tells us that there are around 58,000 Ohioans who have exhausted the assistance they were getting from the state or federal government. But there are no official counts of the number of underemployed individuals, who are thankful for what they do have but cannot find opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. It is for these people that I cast a "yea" vote on this bill.

The bill contains much more than the unemployment benefits. It provides for a two-year extension of the tax cut provisions passed in 2001 and 2003 for individuals and couples at all income levels and extends the 10 percent, 25 percent, 28 percent, 33 percent and 35 percent marginal tax brackets for two years. It temporarily repeals, for two years, the personal exemption phaseout, "PEP", as well as the itemized deduction limitation that taxpayers may claim on their income tax filings. It also continues enhanced child tax credits, and the maximum 15 percent rate on capital gains and dividends for taxpayers in the 25 percent tax bracket and above. It reduces the tax known as the "marriage penalty" and it includes a two-year "patch" intended to prevent more than 25 million Americans from being subject to the alternative minimum tax, otherwise scheduled to take effect in the next calendar year. It also extends expensing rules for small businesses.

However, I am gravely concerned that the inclusion of a provision to lower the employee portion of the payroll tax by two percentage points for one year threatens to reduce Social Security to a bargaining chip. This provision significantly weakens Social Security's revenue stream and makes it more vulnerable to the calls for cuts and privatization the program has faced for years. Advocates of this provision point out that Americans may use the money that will not be deducted from their paychecks to pay down the crushing level of personal debt that many are struggling with. But the cost to the Social Security trust fund of \$112 billion is dangerous because it cuts one-third of Social Security's funding this year alone. Worse, the act of temporarily lowering this contribution—normally an accepted deduction from every working American's paycheck—may become a political issue when time comes for this provision to sunset and the payroll tax to be reinstated. Social Security is a vital lifeline for our nation's seniors, and we tread into perilous waters when we tinker with its funding mechanism.

Mr. Chair, this bill contains many provisions about which I have strong reservations, including the payroll tax "holiday," the gutting of the estate tax, subsidies for ethanol and liquid coal, and the extension of low tax rates for the wealthiest Americans. But this bill contains a crucial provision—an extension of unemployment benefits which are critical for millions of Americans. I cannot in good conscience vote against it.

CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Calhoun Yellow Jackets who have been a dominant force in high school football in my home state of Georgia, and in my 11th Congressional District.

Calhoun finished the season with a 14–1 record and ranked number two in the state in Class AA. Coached by Hal Lamb, the team beat the number one ranked team in Class AA to reach the finals, only to lose a heartbreaker in overtime.

The team was led by senior quarterback Landon Curtis; wide receivers JT Palmer, Ben Lamb, Chase Riserson, and Clay Johnson; and running back Dustin Christian.

The Yellow Jackets have won Georgia AA Region Seven for the past ten years straight. I am proud of their accomplishments and contributions to the 11th District of Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Calhoun Yellow Jackets, their five-time State Champion cheerleading squad, Superintendent Dr. Judy Stiefel, Principal Kelly Bumgardner, and the entire student body and community of Calhoun, Georgia.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF WELCOME BACK VETERANS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H. Res. 1746, a resolution recognizing and observing the efforts of the Boston Red Sox Foundation and other organizations for their Welcome Back Veterans Initiatives. I thank Congressman STEVE ISRAEL for introducing this resolution to give us the opportunity to move in a definitive direction in improving the care for our veterans.

I am emotionally connected and affected by the plight of returning soldiers and their families. As a Korean War Veteran myself, I know all too well the significant toll that war can have on a soldier's physical and mental well-being, and that of their families. I am very familiar with how substantial support upon returning home can make all the difference.

I, along with other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, welcomed the Boston Red Sox Foundation to our Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust to explore and discuss issues concerning our veterans. The Boston Red Sox Foundation's efforts were very impressive.

Given the fact that we are welcoming an increasing amount of our soldiers home who will without a doubt be faced with a multitude of problems that we may not yet be equipped to

deal with, this discussion is very timely. For this reason, I am heartened that this resolution encourages our Veterans Affairs Department to establish innovative public-private partnerships in the treatment of PTSD. This is a remarkable turning point in our handling of this condition.

I again thank the gentleman from New York for introducing this resolution and I urge all the members of this body to stand in support with me to ensure our service members are receiving the care they so rightfully deserve.

KENDRICK MEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary career of Congressman KENDRICK MEEK. A man who took up the torch from his mother—our former esteemed colleague, Congresswoman Carrie Meek—and has carried it further than any of us would have ever imagined. He has truly been a trailblazer here in Washington, DC.

A native of Florida, Congressman MEEK received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1989 from Florida A&M University, where he co-founded the school's Young Democrats chapter. After rising to become the first African-American chief of police in Florida, Congressman MEEK was elected to the Florida House of Representatives from 1995 to 1998 and to the Florida Senate from 1999 to 2002. While in the Florida Senate, Congressman MEEK chaired Florida's Coalition to Reduce Class Size and helped gain a major victory for students throughout the state, with 2.5 million Florida citizens voting to approve the initiative.

During the four terms that Congressman MEEK has served Florida's 17th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, he has lit a spark among all of us and brought a renewed spirit to the mission of not only the Congressional Black Caucus, but to all of Congress. He has sponsored legislation creating a Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force, expanded trade preferences to Haiti's textile industry, provided tax relief to individuals taken advantage of by Ponzi schemes, and expanded the number of Medicare-supported physician residency training positions in states with a shortage of residents. Congressman MEEK has also been recognized nationally for his commitment to youth issues and for his use of social media as a way of strengthening collaborative communication with his constituents and enhancing civic engagement.

Congressman MEEK has served admirably on the House Committee on Ways and Means and as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. On the international level, he has served on the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, an inter-parliamentary organization of legislators representing NATO members and associate countries. He served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and led it to its prominent national stature.

Congressman MEEK is a dedicated public servant, who has always fought fiercely for social and economic justice. He has truly in-

spired a renewed spirit throughout the Congress. On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I honor Congressman MEEK for his outstanding commitment to his district and his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 641, to suspend the rules and pass S. 3860, a bill to require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 639 on Motion to adjourn, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 640 on S. 841, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 641 on S. 3860, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, A bill to require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 642 on S. 3447, On Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment, Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 643 on H. Res. 1766, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 644 on H. Res. 1766, On Agreeing to the Resolution, as Amended, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 645 on S. 987, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and

Pass, To protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

H. RES. 1540: SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF ERADICATING ILLICIT MARIJUANA CULTIVATION ON FEDERAL LANDS AND CALLING ON THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED STRATEGY TO PERMANENTLY DISMANTLE MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER CRIMINAL GROUPS OPERATING ON FEDERAL LANDS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1540, a resolution supporting the goal of eradicating illicit marijuana cultivation on Federal lands and calling on the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to develop a coordinated strategy to dismantle Mexican drug trafficking organizations and other criminal groups operating on Federal lands. H. Res. 1540 is an unnecessary statement that continues the Bush administration's failed approach to United States drug policy by overemphasizing military and law enforcement as the primary instruments of U.S. drug policy and its focus on marijuana to the exclusion of other more harmful drugs. If the approach recommended in this resolution were enacted, it would require the diversion of valuable resources from an effective policy already in place.

There is no doubt that the problem identified in the resolution, illicit marijuana cultivation on Federal lands, is real and harmful. Mexican drug trafficking organizations' ("DTOs") use of national forests and parks for illicit marijuana cultivation imperils visitors and damages pristine national resources. However, contrary to the implication of the resolution, ONDCP already has a coordinated strategy to address this problem. ONDCP's 2010 National Drug Control Strategy outlines how it has worked on a coordinated effort to combat the DTOs' illegal cultivation via its High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program in conjunction with the Department of Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Guard, the Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Agency, the Department of Justice's National Drug Intelligence Center, and state and local law enforcement agencies. In some of these initiatives, such as the Domestic Marijuana Eradication and Investigation Project, ONDCP has provided funding through HIDTA for these efforts. ONDCP has also coordinated a strategy to combat the DTO cultivation of marijuana on Native American reservations.

Moreover, while disrupting organized criminal groups is critical to successfully reducing the violent drug trade in Mexico, there are far more cost-effective ways to undermine the efforts of DTOs than combing the vast public territories in the U.S. for marijuana. U.S. counternarcotics policy must be both evidence-